

LUKAS, NACE, GUTIERREZ & SACHS

CHARTERED

1650 TYSONS BLVD.

SUITE 1500

McLEAN, VA 22102

(202) 857-3500

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL

(703) 584-8666

August 12, 2004

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Room TW-B204
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service
CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Madam Secretary:

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. Section 1.1206, we hereby provide you with notice of an oral *ex parte* presentation in connection with the above-captioned proceeding. On August 4, 2004, undersigned counsel met with Christopher Libertelli, Aaron Goldberger, and Donald Jackson in Chairman Powell's office.

We discussed the pending petitions on file with the Commission seeking redefinition of rural ILEC service areas in the states of Minnesota, Maine and Colorado. Aside from reiterating arguments made in the record of each proceeding, counsel urged the Commission to respect the judgment of each state, which has conducted extensive proceedings to designate competitive ETCs and has determined that redefinition of rural ILEC service areas along wire center boundaries is appropriate. This would be consistent with the recent action of the Virginia Corporation Commission in respecting the FCC's judgment to redefine rural ILEC service areas in Virginia. No materials were distributed at the meeting.

We trust that you will find this information to be useful. Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact undersigned counsel directly.

Sincerely,

/s/

David A. LaFuria

cc: Christopher Libertelli, Esq.
Aaron N. Goldberger, Esq.
Donald Jackson, Esq.